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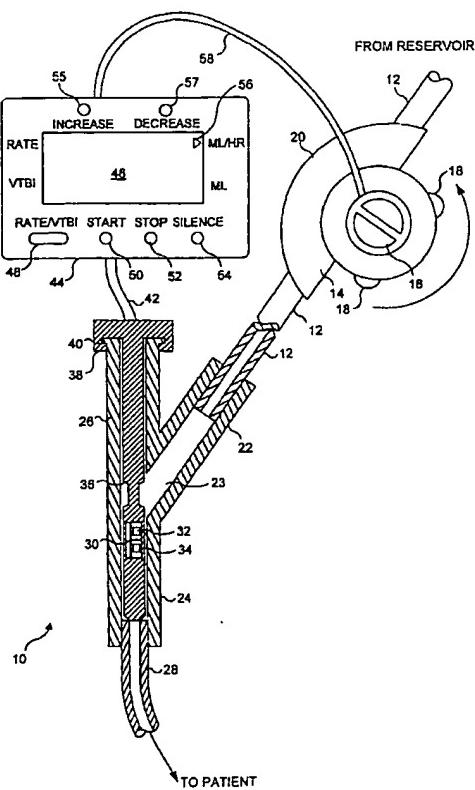
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(54) Title: CLOSED-LOOP FLOW CONTROL FOR IV FLUID DELIVERY



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(57) Abstract: In a closed-loop process, a controller uses a flow sensor to monitor the flow of a medicinal fluid being infused into a patient, to achieve a desired rate of flow. A relatively inexpensive peristaltic pump or electronically controlled valve can be used to vary the flow of the medicinal fluid through a fluid line. A Y site within the fluid line includes an integral flow sensor having an orifice. The flow sensor includes proximal and distal pressure sensors disposed on opposite sides of the orifice to monitor the distal and proximal pressure, producing a signal indicative of the rate of flow of the medicinal fluid through the fluid line. A signal produced by the controller is input to a motor driving the pump or to the valve to vary the rate of flow as required to achieve the desired infusion rate of the medicinal fluid.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inte	nal Application No
PCT/US 01/23782	

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61M5/172 A61M5/168

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 278 085 A (SHIM NORM) 14 July 1981 (1981-07-14) abstract column 6, line 49 -column 7, line 52; figures 1,3,6 ----	1,10-12
A	US 4 443 218 A (DECANT JR. ET AL.) 17 April 1984 (1984-04-17) abstract column 3, line 61 -column 4, line 18 column 7, line 48 -column 8, line 41; figures 1,2 ----	1-23
A	US 4 919 596 A (SLATE ET AL.) 24 April 1990 (1990-04-24) abstract column 3, line 56 -column 4, line 2 column 10, line 41 - line 55; figures 1,2 ----	1,10-12
		-/-

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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4 447 224 A (DECANT JR. ET AL.) 8 May 1984 (1984-05-08) -----	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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